

PROCEEDINGS  
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TAXONOMIC STATUS OF THE MOLOSSID BAT,  
*CYNOMOPS MALAGAI* VILLA-R, 1955

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The dog-faced bats of the genus *Cynomops* are primarily South American in distribution. The genus is known in North America only from Panamá, with the exception of *Cynomops malagai* Villa-R, the holotype of which is from Tuxpan de Rodríguez Cano, Veracruz (Acta Zoologica Mexicana, 1(4):2, September 15, 1955). A second specimen from Veracruz and another from Peto, Yucatán, were referred to *C. malagai* in the original description.

The presence of a large, long-undetected species of *Cynomops* in southern México was somewhat puzzling, and on a recent visit to Mexico City I took the opportunity, through the courtesy of Villa, to examine the holotype of *C. malagai* in the collection of the Instituto de Biología, Universidad de México. The specimen (no. 1738, not 1783 as published), a female obtained on August 2, 1955, is not adult as claimed in the original description, but is an immature animal having unfused phalangeal epiphyses. The immaturity of the type accounts for the lack of a sagittal crest and most of the other characters by which *C. malagai* was alleged to differ from members of the genus *Molossus*. In fact, the holotype of *malagai* is indistinguishable, externally and cranially, from specimens of corresponding age of *Molossus nigricans* Miller, 1902 (as, incidentally, are the other specimens, nos. 1736-37, that were referred to *malagai* in the original description and the several specimens in the collection of the Instituto that subsequently have been referred to that species). Consequently, I regard *Cynomops malagai* as a synonym of the earlier-named *M. nigricans*, which currently is known as *Molossus ater nigricans* (Goodwin, Amer. Mus. Novit., 1994:4, March 8, 1960).